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PAUL J. COTE, JR.
COMMISSIONER

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Center for Environmental Health
Food Protection Program
305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-3597
(617) 983-6700 (617) 524-8062 - Fax

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Survey of Bottled Water Sold in Massachusetts

The attached survey contains the test data for finished product received by the Massachusetts Food Protection Program from the water bottlers that have permits to sell their products in Massachusetts.

Results of the bottled water analyses are listed so that a consumer can compare the water quality analyses of various products. In order to locate results for a particular product, first find the product name by looking through the "Brand Name" column of Chart A-1 if the product originates from within Massachusetts, or from Chart B-1 if the product is from outside the Commonwealth. After identifying the code of the bottling company, check the water quality results from the corresponding Chart A-2 for in-state bottlers and Chart B-2 for out-of-state bottlers. Compare your chosen product's analyses results with the standards or guidelines listed at the top of the chart.

All analyses are conducted by certified laboratories in accordance with the testing and methodological requirements specified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) establishes standards for finished bottled water products. FDA has adopted some of EPA's maximum contaminant levels and secondary drinking water standards, and in other cases has established its own standards. The significance of the various standards or guidelines is as follows:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) established by the EPA represents the acceptable level of a chemical in drinking water under specified conditions. Cost and feasibility, as well as health considerations are taken into account when deriving the MCL.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) established by EPA are unenforceable non-health related federal guidelines regarding the taste, color, odor and certain other aesthetic qualities of drinking water. EPA recommends them to the States as reasonable goals.

Reporting Levels for sodium are established by the EPA; exceeding the guideline triggers certain notification requirements for protection of individuals on highly restricted sodium diets.

FDA Bottled Water Quality Standards are established by the FDA for bottled water.

Massachusetts is one of many states that has developed bottled water regulations. The Massachusetts regulations were implemented on October 15, 1988 and updated on October 25, 2002. If you have questions concerning a particular brand of bottled water, you may contact the bottling company directly. Additional assistance is available by calling the Massachusetts Food Protection Program at 617-983-6712.